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Palmer BSC 307

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Week 1

The vast majority of the student population at Springfield Southeast High School consists of White and Black students, with about 43 and 50 percent respectively. The remaining percentage is mainly made up of multiracial students, at about 4 percent. There are less than 3 percent of Hispanic, Native American, and Asian students. A shocking statistic is how many students live below the poverty line, almost two-thirds, at 63 percent.

In the seventh hour class I was observing, everyone was Black except one multiracial student. This may not be representative of the entire class because I was responsible for taking attendance and over half (8 out of 17) students were absent from Jason Potter’s seventh hour class. I spoke briefly with Jason (he assured me I should refer to him as Jason) and he was telling me that he actually should have 5 White students in his class, but all were absent. If all the students were there that were supposed to be, the class may not have been that bad a representation of the demographics of the entire student population. Of course, it can be very difficult to tell if someone is living below the poverty line. I was not able to tell if any of students were living below poverty line. However, Jason was explaining how several of his students were in trouble with the law and a couple are under house arrest. Although statistics like this can sometimes be indicative of socioeconomic status, they also can be completely unrelated to socioeconomic status. If crime amongst these students is indicative of socioeconomic status of the school and two thirds of the class is living below the property line, it is probably because it is a freshmen level class. All the students in this class are required to be there. Assuming some students drop out of school because of crime, and crime rates are indicative of socioeconomic status, the upper level classes would probably not be representative of the student population. This is just a hunch, however.